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Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Comprehensive study of the question of honorariums payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Secretary-General submitted his last report on the question of honorariums to the General Assembly in document A/53/643. The report reviewed the history of the payment of honorariums to subsidiary organs of the United Nations and the practice followed by other organizations within the United Nations system.

2. The main conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General are contained in paragraphs 61 to 64 of the report as follows:

> "61. On the basis of the present review, the Secretary-General would conclude that the criteria and authority for the payment of honorariums to members of organs and subsidiary organs rests solely with the legislative authority of the General Assembly.
>
> "62. That authority has been exercised by the General Assembly ... Accordingly, the Assembly may wish to consider whether payment of honorariums should be extended to the members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture.
>
> "63. With regard to the level of the honorariums, it will be recalled that the General Assembly last revised the rates effective 1 January 1981. The Assembly may wish to consider increasing the rates of honorariums by 25 per cent ...
>
> "64. Such an increase would result in revised annual rates of honorariums in respect of those cases the General Assembly had already authorized on an exceptional basis, namely, ILC, INCB, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of

* A/56/150.

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Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and also apply to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture, on an exceptional basis, if the General Assembly so decides, as follows:

	Rate of honorariums (United States dollars)		
	Present rate[a]	*Proposed rate*	*Increase*
Chairmen (Presidents)	5 000	6 250	1 250
Vice-Chairman of INCB	4 000	5 000	1 000
Other members	3 000	3 750	750
Additional amount payable to members of ILC when acting as special rapporteurs, conditional upon the preparation of specific reports of studies between sessions of the Commission	2 500	3 125	625

[a] As authorized by the General Assembly in its resolutions 35/218, 36/240 A and 44/201 A."

3. The financial implications for the year 1999 of the above conclusions of the Secretary-General are contained in paragraph 65 of the report as follows:

Budget section	*Body*	*United States dollars*
6. Legal affairs	International Law Commission (Chairman, 32 members, 6 rapporteurs)	29 000
	United Nations Administrative Tribunal (Chairman, 6 members)	5 750
7A. Economic and social affairs	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Chairman, 22 members)	17 750
15. International drug control	International Narcotics Control Board (President, 2 Vice-Presidents, 10 members)	10 750
22. Human rights	Human Rights Committee (Chairman, 17 members)	14 000
	Committee on the Rights of the Child (Chairman, 17 members)	14 000
	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Chairman, 17 members)	70 000
	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Chairman, 17 members)	70 000
	Committee against Torture (Chairman, 9 members)	40 000
Total		**271 250**

4. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the above proposals of the Secretary-General are contained in paragraphs 116 to 121 of the report of the Advisory

Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/7). In paragraph 119 of that report, the Advisory Committee stated, inter alia, "the Assembly may wish to consider increasing the rates of honorariums by 25 per cent. ... However, the Committee recommends that, should the Assembly decide to increase the rates, it should be done with effect from 1 January 2000".

5. Although the report of the Secretary-General was before the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, the report was neither formally introduced nor debated in either the formal or the informal sessions. Subsequently, in paragraph 45 of section III of its resolution 54/249 of 23 December 1999, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in its reports on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, subject to the provisions of resolution 54/249, which made no specific reference to the question of honorariums.

6. Following the adoption of that resolution, the Secretariat was requested to indicate whether or not the General Assembly had endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General regarding the payment of honorariums. In light of the ambiguity reflected in paragraph 5 above, the Secretariat was not in a position to provide such a precise indication.

7. In order to provide a definitive and clear answer, the Assembly is requested to indicate whether or not it endorses the recommendations on the payment of honorariums as described above and to indicate an effective date either retroactive to January 2000 or prospectively to January 2002. In either case, budgetary provision would be required to meet such additional expenses within the respective biennia.